

evolved during life by the material elements." I venture to think that this can only be true as long as the living body is so placed in the magnetic field that the polarity induced by the latter coincides with the normal polarity of the molecules composing the former, and that, supposing Dr. Shettle's theory to be correct, it would be quite possible so to place the living body in relation to the magnetic field that the polarity induced by the one would be in direct opposition to that inherent in the other. Dr. Shettle considers, if I have followed his reasoning correctly, that this antagonism can result only in the deviation of the molecular axes from their original direction, much in the same way that a suspended magnetic needle is deflected upon the approach of a magnet, and that such deviation would have no appreciable effect upon the organism. Now, granting for a moment that no more complex result might be expected from the opposition of similar magnetic poles, is it reasonable to suppose that such a radical change of direction as the one under consideration could take place without causing some very distinct modification of the natural functions of the body? The fact that no such modification actually occurs when the living body is introduced into the most powerful magnetic field—no matter in what position the one may be placed in relation to the other—would appear, I think, to tell very strongly against the validity of Dr. Shettle's theory. I make these suggestions with the utmost reserve and solely with the object of obtaining information upon a subject in which I am much interested. At the same time, I am fully aware that the apparent difficulty may be owing entirely to my own imperfect knowledge and consequent failure to grasp the facts under consideration with the necessary clearness.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Hornsey, Oct. 5th, 1895.

W. B. FOTHERINGHAM.

"PRECEPTS FOR CYCLISTS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In the annotation on the above subject contained in the last issue of THE LANCET you unreservedly condemn the inclined posture adopted by the conventional "scorcher" on the ground of its being detrimental to health. Speaking as a cyclist of many years' experience, I have never been able to understand why this particular position should be condemned on hygienic grounds. I readily admit that it is ungraceful in the extreme, but it is certainly an error to suppose that it "rounds" the shoulders. On the contrary, the shoulders are held stiffly back in order to obtain a firm grip for the extraordinary muscles of respiration, and the bend is a hinge movement at the axis of the hip-joint and not a forward curvature of the spinal column. The error has probably arisen from the fact that this position throws into prominence any existing tendency to "round shoulders," in the causation of which it takes, however, no part. From a physiological point of view the "forward bend" is the best, in that it enables the rider greedy of speed to develop a maximum degree of effort with a minimum of distress. The truth of this statement is evidenced by the fact that all of us intuitively follow the "scorcher's" example under strain, as when climbing a hill or facing a head wind.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Oct. 7th, 1895.

ALFRED S. GUBB, M.D. Paris.

"SKETCHES FROM RHENISH WATERING-PLACES."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your Berlin correspondent omits to mention one of the most charming of the health resorts of the Rheingau. Having spent a month there this summer, I may perhaps be allowed to give your readers a brief account of Schlangenbad. It is seven miles from Wiesbaden, four from Schwalbach, both of which are reached by carriage, and four from Eltville, where all the Rhine boats stop. There is now a steam tramway between Eltville and Schlangenbad, so that it is reached with the least possible trouble. The village lies in the forests of the Taunus, the surroundings are beautiful, walks through the woods having been carefully laid out in every direction, to Raenthal (one mile and a half), Georgenborn (the same distance), and many other picturesque villages. There are a pretty little Kursaal, seven "Kurahäuser," several good hotels, and the expenses are very moderate. The baths are delicious;

the chemical composition and medicinal properties of the waters have been fully described by the resident physician, Dr. Baumann. They seem specially suited to cases of neurasthenia or irritable nervous conditions, which respond very quickly to Schlangenbad treatment. It may have been the property of the baths or the early hours, regular life, and the restfulness of the sheltered walks, but more probably the result of all these factors, that produced such a rapid improvement in the neurotic patients that were sent there. Eczema and other skin affections were quickly cured by the baths. As far as I was able to judge these two classes of patients got the greatest advantage from Schlangenbad. For medical men and their families it is a charming pleasure resort, and easily reached. They are admitted free to the baths and are exempt from Kur tax. Shooting (stag, partridge, &c.) can easily be obtained in the neighbourhood; also good music, pleasant society, absolute rest if desired, or excursions in all directions, good food, and capital accommodation. What more could be desired either for summer holiday or health resort? All these advantages, and more, can be obtained in Schlangenbad.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

West Brighton, Oct. 7th, 1894.

W. G. THISTLE.

ADVERTISING IN HIGH PLACES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I see by the daily press that Dr. — and also Dr. — have returned to their respective homes after a brief holiday. As the leading men of the profession persist in setting such a noble example of professional etiquette to their humbler brethren, I intend in future to make a black list of these advertising gentlemen for my private use only, and to refrain from sending any of my patients to them when I desire the advice of a consultant. I think that if other general practitioners would do the same it might influence these gentlemen to some extent in self-advertisement.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Oct. 8th, 1895.

M.R.C.S.

HOTELS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I venture to ask you for the following information. Should a patient fall ill with diphtheria in a large and crowded London hotel, would he, after the case had been duly notified to the authorities, be compelled to leave the hotel at a few hours' notice and to be taken to the fever wards of a hospital? Would the patient or his family, if they refused to leave the hotel, be liable to be sued before court for damages caused to the hotel (in guests leaving &c.)? I have been placed in a very anxious position by a case of this kind happening to an English patient of mine at a Zürich hotel, and should be very glad to know how the authorities act in England under the same circumstances.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Oct. 1st, 1895.

TURICENSIS.

* * There is no universal rule in England. Many provincial towns have no infectious hospitals to which such cases could be removed either compulsorily or voluntarily. And even where such hospitals exist, including the metropolis, there is no power of compulsory removal unless a magistrate's order for such removal is procured. The magistrate can issue this order on one or other of three conditions: 1. That the patient is "without proper lodging and accommodation." 2. That the patient is in a room occupied by members of more than one family. 3. That the patient is on board a ship. The first condition would be the one affecting a hotel, but the legal interpretation placed on it varies very much, some saying that the question of proper lodging, &c., must be decided on grounds of protecting the public; others, with probably more correctness, declaring that in view of the second condition it is the propriety of the lodging *quâ* the patient that is in question, except where the room holds persons of another family. But, as a matter of fact, such cases are very generally, though not always, removed from hotels into hospital; for the London Fever Hospital has private rooms, which go far to remove the objection of the better classes to isolation in hospital.—ED. L.